

DERMOT TURING



THE REAL STORY OF HOW ENIGMA WAS BROKEN

FOREWORD BY ARKADY RZEGOCKI,
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Spymasters. Spycraft. Escape. Imprisonment. Betrayal.

December, 1932

In the bathroom of a Belgian hotel, a French spymaster photographs secret documents – operating instructions of the cipher machine, Enigma. A few weeks later a mathematician in Warsaw begins to decipher the coded communications of the Third Reich and lay the foundations for the code-breaking operation at Bletchley Park. The co-operation between France, Britain and Poland is given the cover name 'X, Y & Z'.

December, 1942

It is the middle of World War II. The Polish code-breakers are in France on the run from the Gestapo. People who know the Enigma secret are not supposed to be in the combat zone for fear of capture so MI6 devises a plan to exfiltrate them. If it goes wrong, if they are caught, they could give away the greatest secret of the war.

X, Y & Z describes how French, British and Polish secret services came together to unravel the secrets of the Enigma machine. It tells of how, under the very noses of the Germans, Enigma code-breaking continued in Vichy France. And how code-breakers from Poland continued their work, watching the USSR's first steps of the Cold War.

The people of X, Y & Z were eccentric, colourful and caught up in world events that they could watch but not control. Based on original research and newly released documents, this is their story.